

Application No. 10/059,211
Reply to Office Action of September 9, 2005

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1 and 11. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 and 11, replace the original sheets including Figs. 1 and 11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets (2)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 17 are amended by the present amendment.

Claim amendments find support in the specification, at least, on page 12, lines 5-27 and page 6, lines 6-11, thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the oath/declaration was objected to as defective for not identifying the inventors address; Figure 11 was objected to as being incorrectly labeled; The disclosure on page 8, line 16 to page 9, line 13 was objected to as not corresponding with Figure 1; Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite; Claims 6 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as including limitations that lack antecedent basis; Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsutsuka et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,211,872, herein "Matsutsuka"); Claims 4 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsutsuka in view of Charisius et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0104071, herein "Charisius"); and Claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Matsutsuka in view of "OMG Unified Modeling Language Specification" (herein "UML");

In response to the objection to Figure 11, replacement Figure 11 includes the label "System specification recording section" on element 107. Thus, withdrawal of the objection to Figure 11 is respectfully submitted to be in order.

In response to the objection to the specification on page 8, line 16 to page 9, line 13, replacement Figure 1 labels elements 21, 22, and 23 "Specification", and thus withdrawal of the objection to Figure 1 is respectfully submitted to be in order.

In response to the objection to the oath/declaration, it is believed that the current declaration is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a). The declaration recites on lines 1-3, "I declare further that my mailing address is at c/o Intellectual Property Division. KABUSHIKI KAISHA TOSHIBA. 101 Shibaura I-chome, Minati-ku, Tokyo 105-8001, Japan." Thus, withdrawal of the objection to the oath/declaration is respectfully submitted to be in order.

In response to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicant has amended the claims to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the current invention. Specifically, Claims 5 and 12 are amended by replacing "execution processing content" with --program state transition units-- and replacing "program during execution" with --current program--. Further, Claims 6 and 14 are amended to include sufficient antecedent basis for the limitations "first rule" and "second rule." Thus, Applicant believes that Claims 5, 6, 12 and 14 now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Before turning to the outstanding prior art rejections, it is believed that a brief review of the present invention would be helpful.

In this regard, the present invention describes a system design support method. In a non-limiting example, shown in Figure 1, the method includes a system specification (described in a state transition table form) (21) and a system specification (described in an execution control table form) (22). Further, the system specification (described in an execution control table form) (22) is converted into a system specification (having an executable form described in a system description language) (23) by the system implementation conversion section.

Turning now to the 103 rejection in the outstanding Office Action, Applicants respectfully traverse the 103(a) rejection based Matsutsuka for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

generating a first system specification described in a state transition table form using a state transition unit which

includes information relating to an execution control over the system; generating a second system specification described in an execution control table form which includes a set of program state transition units indicating how processing content units are switched upon state transitions, wherein a new processing content unit is added to any one of the program state transition units in consideration of the continuity of transitions in said state transition table.

Matsutsuka describes a state transition table which is generated from a state transition generation class 102 which is automatically generated from a state transition definition table 101.¹ Further, in Matsutsuka, the state transition table and state transition generation class 102 define a one-to-one relationship for each state, thus although they are different in form, they are substantially the same.

In contrast, in Claim 1, the first system specification described in a state transition table form and the second system specification described in an execution control table form, are different. In a non-limiting illustration exemplified in Figs. 4 and 8, the first system specification described in a state transition table form uses a “(current) state” as the primary key,² whereas the second system specification described in an execution control table form uses a “(current) program” as the primary key.³ Thus, there is not a one-to-one relationship between the “(current) state” and the “(current) program”. This non-limiting illustration exemplifies that the first system specification (described in a state transition table form) and the second system specification (described in an execution control table form), recited in Claim 1, are not substantially the same, unlike the state transition table and state transition generation class 102 of Matsutsuka, which are substantially the same.

Further, Matsutsuka does not describe or suggest that a new processing content unit is added to any one of the program state transition units in consideration of the continuity of

¹ Matsutsuka, Col 2, lines 50-53.

² See Fig. 4

³ See Fig. 8

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transitions in said state transition table, as is described in Claim 1. Thus, Matsutsuka's state transition table does not describe the second system specification described in Claim 1.

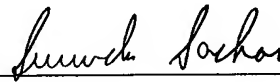
Accordingly, as Matsutsuka does not describe all the elements of independent Claim 1 and similarly independent Claims 8, 15 and 17 Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1 and similarly independent Claims 8, 15 and 17 patentably distinguish over Matsutsuka.

Further, with respect to the further dependent claims, in light of the above discussion Applicant respectfully submits that those claims also distinguish over the applied art, particularly as none of these further cited teachings to Charisius or UML are believed to overcome the above-noted deficiencies of Matsutsuka.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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